

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Royal College of Physicians of London

RELATING TO MEMBERS.

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# ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

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## Bye-Laws and Regulations relating to Members.

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### I.

The Members of the College, present and future, shall be eligible to the Fellowship. They shall have the use of the Library and Museum subject to the Bye-Laws and Regulations relating thereto,\* and shall be admitted to all Lectures, and shall enjoy such further privileges as may from time to time be defined by the Bye-Laws and Regulations; but they shall not be entitled to any share in the Government, or to attend or vote at General Meetings of the Corporation. (*Bye-Law CXI.*)

### II.

Every Candidate for the Membership of the College† shall furnish proof that he has attained the age of twenty-three years. (*Bye-Law CXII.*)

### III.

Every Candidate shall produce a Testimonial from a Fellow or Member of the College, satisfactory to the Censors' Board,

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\* Fellows and Members of the College shall be privileged to take Books out of the College.

† Under Bye-Law CXCIV. women are admissible to the Membership on the same conditions as men.



to the effect that, as regards moral character and conduct, he is a fit and proper person to be admitted a Member of the College. (*Bye-Law CXIII.*)

#### IV.

No Candidate shall be admitted to examination who refuses to make known, when so required by the President and Censors, the nature and composition of any remedy he uses. (*Bye-Law CXV.*)

#### V.

Every Candidate for the Membership shall satisfy the Censors' Board, by examination or otherwise, of the sufficiency of his general education, with the view of maintaining the honour and dignity of the College. (*Bye-Law CXVI.*)\*

#### VI.

Any Candidate who is a Licentiate of the College, or who has obtained at any University a degree of Doctor or Bachelor of Medicine which is registrable by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom, shall, if the Censors' Board think fit, be admitted to the Pass Examination. The nature and extent of this Examination shall, in the case of each Candidate, be determined by the Censors' Board. (*Bye-Law CXVII.*)

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\* RESOLUTIONS OF THE CENSORS' BOARD IN REGARD TO CANDIDATES FOR THE MEMBERSHIP.

*I. A Candidate for the Membership shall be inadmissible to the Professional Examination who is unable to satisfy the Censors' Board of his general culture.*

*II. The languages set, viz., Latin, Greek, French and German, are not compulsory, but credit will be given to Candidates who show a knowledge of them,*

VII.

PASS EXAMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

*The Pass Examination shall commence on Tuesday in the week preceding that in which each Ordinary Meeting of the College is held, and shall be conducted as follows:—*

On Tuesday :

From Two to Five, by written questions on MEDICAL ANATOMY, and on THE PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE.

On Wednesday :

From Two to Five, by written questions on THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, including the PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC HEALTH, and on PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

On Saturday or Monday :

The Candidate's practical knowledge will be tested either at the College or in the Medical Wards of an Hospital.

On Tuesday :

By Examination *vivâ voce*, in the subjects of the first day.

On Wednesday :

By Examination *vivâ voce*, in the subjects of the second day.

Provided that when the number of Candidates renders it desirable, the President and Censors may fix such additional or other times for the various parts of the Examination as may be required for the proper conduct of the examination.

*NOTE.—The Ordinary Meetings of the College are held on the last Thursdays in the months of January, April, July, and October. (Regulation to Bye-Law CXVII.)*

VIII.

The College reserves to itself the right to admit to the examination for the Membership, on the recommendation of the Censors' Board, Candidates other than those admissible under Bye-Law CXVII. (*Bye-Law CXVIIA*)



## IX.

Any Candidate admitted to examination under Bye-Laws CXVII and CXVIIA who has attained the age of thirty years, and who can produce testimonials as to moral character and conduct and his general and professional attainments, shall be permitted to submit work by himself in any branch of medical science or in general literature, that has been published, and if the Censors' Board decide that such work is of sufficient merit to excuse the Candidate the whole or part of the usual examination the Censors' Board may modify the examination as they think fit. (*Bye-Law CXVIII.*)

## X.

The Fee to be paid for Examination for Membership shall be Six Guineas, and such Examination Fee shall be reckoned as part of the Fee for admission as a Member, in the event of the Candidate satisfying the Censors' Board of his competency. (*Bye-Law CLXVIII.*)

## XI.

If the Censors' Board should doubt the sufficiency of the Certificates and Testimonials produced by any Candidate, or his fitness, in any respect, for admission to examination, they may submit the case to a General Meeting of the Fellows. (*Bye-Law CXX.*)

## XII.

Every Candidate (*except in cases specially exempted under the provisions of Section VI or IX*) shall give proof of his acquirements by written answers to questions placed before him, and shall also be examined *vivâ voce*. (*Bye-Law CXXI.*)

XIII.

Every Candidate for the Membership, who shall have satisfied the requirements of the Censors' Board, may be proposed to the College, at the next General Meeting of Fellows, to be admitted a Member of the College; and if the majority of the Fellows present shall consent, he shall on engaging to obey the Bye-Laws and Regulations, be admitted a Member of the College. (*Bye-Law CXXII.*)

XIV.

The Fee to be paid for admission as a Member of the College shall be Forty Guineas, except when the Candidate for Membership is a Licentiate of the College, in which case the Fee already paid for the Licence shall be deducted from the Forty Guineas. (*Bye-Law CLXV.*)

XV.

Any Candidate not approved by the Censors' Board may be refused admission to a subsequent examination for such a period as the Censors' Board may decide. (*Bye-Law CXXIV.*)

XVI.

No one shall be admitted a Member of the College, unless he shall give his assent to the following words, addressed to him by the President, in the presence of the Fellows:—

*You give your faith that you will observe and obey the Statutes, Bye-Laws, and Regulations of this College relating to Members, and will submit to such penalties as may be lawfully imposed*



*for any neglect or infringement of them ; and that you will, to the best of your ability, do all things in the practice of your profession for the honour of the College, and the good of the public."*

At the time of his admission, he shall confirm this promise by affixing his name to the same words, previously committed to writing. (*Bye-Law CLVI.*)

## XVII.

The President, addressing the person to be admitted, and taking him by the hand, shall say :—

*"I, A.B., President, do admit you a Member of this College."*  
(*Bye-Law CLVII.*)

## XVIII.

Every Member at the time of his admission shall have Letters Testimonial under the seal of the Corporation, in this form :—

SCIANT OMNES, NOS.

A. B., *Præsidentem Collegii Regalis Medicorum Londinensis, unà cum Censoribus, examinâsse et approbâsse ornatissimum virum, C. D. [in florentissimâ Academiâ ——— Medicinæ Doctorem] et cum consensu Sociorum ejusdem Collegii, auctoritate nobis a Domino Rege et Parlamento commissâ, ei concessisse has Literas Testimoniales. In cujus rei fidem et testimonium, adjectis Censorum et Registrarii Chirographis, Sigillum nostrum commune præsentibus apponi fecimus. Datis ex ædibus Collegii die ——— mensis ——— anno Domini millesimo noningentesimo ———.*



Censoribus, {  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registrario, \_\_\_\_\_

N.B.—This document shall be signed by the Member with his usual signature, and by the Registrar, with the following words:—

*“I certify that C. D., to whom these Letters Testimonial have been granted by the College, and whose signature is subjoined, has been duly admitted a Member of the College. (Bye-Law CXXV.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member.”

N.B.—Every Candidate is required to give at least ~~fourteen~~ **21** days' notice in writing to the Registrar of the College of his intention to present himself for Examination, at the same time transmitting—

- (1.) Such Medical and Surgical Qualifications as he may have obtained, unless such Qualifications are registered in the Medical Register ;
- (2.) A certificate of Birth (or Baptism), or a Statutory Declaration, in proof of age ; and
- (3.) A Testimonial as to moral character from a Fellow or Member of the College.

OF THE DUTIES AND CONDUCT OF FELLOWS,  
MEMBERS, AND LICENTIATES ; AND THE  
PENALTIES FOR NEGLECT OR INFRINGEMENT  
OF THE STATUTES, BYE-LAWS, OR REGULA-  
TIONS.

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No Fellow of the College shall be entitled to sue for professional aid rendered by him.\* (*Bye-Law CLXXII.*)

No Fellow of the College shall divulge any proceedings of any Meeting which relate to the election of Censors, or other College Officers, or of Fellows or Members of the College ; or any proceedings of any Meeting which he shall be required by the President to keep secret. (*Bye-Law CLXXIII.*)

No Fellow of the College shall leave a Meeting (except by permission of the President), until the President shall have declared such Meeting to be dissolved. (*Bye-Law CLXXIV.*)

Every Fellow or Member of the College, in prescribing for a patient, shall write on his prescription the date thereof, the name of the patient, and the initial letters of his own name. (*Bye-Law CLXXV.*)

If two or more Physicians, Fellows or Members of the College, be called in consultation, they shall confer together with the utmost forbearance, and no one of them shall prescribe, or even suggest, in the presence of the patient, or the patient's attendants, any opinion as to what ought to be done, before the method of treatment has been determined by the consultation of himself and his colleagues ; and the Physician first called to a patient shall, unless he decline doing so, write the prescription for the medicines agreed upon, and shall sign the initials of the Physician or Physicians called in consultation,

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\* This Bye-Law was made pursuant to 21 and 22 Vict., Cap. 90, Section xxxi (since repealed), and is continued pursuant to 49 and 50 Vict., Cap. 48, Section 6. It does not extend to Members.



he placing his own initials the last. If any difference of opinion should arise, the greatest moderation and forbearance shall be observed, and the fact of such difference of opinion shall be communicated to the patient or the attendants by the Physician who was first in attendance, in order that it may distress the patient and his friends as little as possible. (*Bye-Law CLXXVI.*)

No Fellow, Member or Licentiate of the College shall officiously, or under colour of a benevolent purpose, offer medical aid to, or prescribe for, any patient whom he knows to be under the care of another legally qualified Medical Practitioner. (*Bye-Law CLXXVII.*)

No Fellow of the College shall be engaged in trade, or dispense medicines, or make any engagement with a Pharmacist or any other person for the supply of medicines; or practise Medicine or Surgery in partnership, by deed or otherwise; or be party to the transfer of patients or of the goodwill of a Practice to or from himself, for a pecuniary consideration. (*Bye-Law CLXXVIII.*)

No Fellow, Member, or Licentiate of the College shall append to his name the title of Doctor of Medicine, or the letters M.D., or any other letters indicating that he is a Graduate of a University, unless he has obtained a degree entitling him to do so. (*Bye-Law CLXXIX.*)

No Fellow, Member, or Licentiate of the College shall refuse to make known, when so required by the President and Censors, the nature and composition of any remedy he uses. (*Bye-Law CLXXX.*)

That no Fellow, Member, or Licentiate be permitted to resign his Fellowship, Membership, or Licence, as the case may be, unless he has signified to the Registrar in writing his desire so to do, and unless such resignation has been accepted by the College. (*Bye-Law CLXXXI.*)



Members and Licentiates of this College shall not compound or dispense medicines, except for patients under their own care. (*Bye-Law CLXXXII.*)

No Licentiate of this College shall, by virtue of his Licence, represent himself as being a Fellow or Member of the College. (*Bye-Law CLXXXIII.*)

If it shall at any time hereafter appear, or be made known to the President or Censors, that any Fellow or Member of the College has obtained admission into the College, or that any Licentiate of the College has obtained the Licence of the College by fraud, false statement, or imposition, or that any Fellow, Member, or Licentiate has been guilty of any great crime or public immorality, or has acted in any respect in a dishonourable or unprofessional manner, or has violated any Statute, Bye-Law or Regulation of the College relating to Fellows, Members, or Licentiates, as the case may be, the President and Censors may call the Fellow, Member, or Licentiate so offending before them, and having investigated the case, may admonish, or reprimand, or inflict a fine not exceeding £10; or, if they deem the case of sufficient importance, may report the case to the College, and thereupon a majority of two-thirds of the Fellows present at a Meeting of the Fellows, which must be specially summoned for that purpose, may declare such Fellow not to be a Fellow or a Member of the College, or such Member not to be a Member of the College, or such Licentiate not to be a Licentiate, for a limited period of time or altogether as the College shall determine; and such Fellow, Member, or Licentiate shall forfeit all the rights and privileges which he does or may enjoy as a Fellow, or as a Member, or as a Licentiate, as the case may be, either for such limited period of time or altogether as the College shall determine; and his name shall be expunged from the list of Fellows, or from the list of Members, or from the list of Licentiates, as the case may be, either for such limited time or altogether as the College shall determine. (*Bye-Law CXC.*)



## RESOLUTIONS OF THE COLLEGE.

NOTE.—*Certain Resolutions relating to professional conduct have been adopted at various times by the College, as follows:—*

On the 9th day of June, 1873, the College passed the following Resolution:—

*“That the practice of Medical authors frequently advertising their own works in the non-medical journals, and especially with the addition of laudatory extracts from reviews, is not only derogatory to the authors themselves, but is also injurious to the higher interests of the Profession.”*

On the 27th day of December, 1881, the College passed the following Resolution:—

*“That while the College has no desire to fetter the opinion of its members in reference to any Theories they may see fit to adopt in connection with the Practice of Medicine, it nevertheless considers it desirable to express its opinion that the assumption or acceptance by Members of the Profession of designations implying the adoption of special modes of treatment, is opposed to those principles of the freedom and dignity of the Profession which should govern the relations of its Members to each other and to the public.*

*“The College therefore expects that all its Fellows, Members, and Licentiates will uphold these principles by discountenancing those who trade upon such designations.”*

On the 27th day of July, 1882, the College passed the following Resolution:—

*“That the system of extensively advertising Medical Works, and the custom of giving, whether for publication or not, laudatory Certificates of Medicinal and other Preparations, or of Medical or Surgical Appliances, is misleading to the public, derogatory to the dignity of the Profession, and contrary to the traditions and resolutions of the Royal College of Physicians.”*

On the 2nd February, 1888, the College passed the following Resolution :—

*“ That it is undesirable that any Fellow, Member, or Licentiate of the College should contribute articles on professional subjects to journals professing to supply medical knowledge to the general public, or should in any way advertise himself, or permit himself to be advertised, in such journals.”*

On the 28th of January, 1897, the College passed the following Resolutions :—

*I.—“ That in future, when application is made for the restoration of a diploma of Membership which has been surrendered, notice of such application shall be placed on the Agenda Paper for the next Quarterly Comitia, with a request that any objections to such restoration should be sent by Fellows to the Censors' Board for their consideration, before the application is submitted to the vote of the College at the following Quarterly Comitia.”*

*II.—“ That when the College decides to return the Diploma of Membership to any gentleman who has been permitted to withdraw, in his own interest, from the Status of a Member, the name of such re-instated Member shall be placed at the bottom of the list of Members of the College.”*

On the 19th of October, 1922, the College passed the following Resolution :—

*“ That subject to the general provisions of Bye-Law CXC, it is undesirable that any Fellow or Member of the College should have any financial interest (whether direct or indirect) in any Company or Institution having for its object the treatment of disease for profit, other than the receipt by him from such Company or Institution of (1) a fixed salary, or (2) fees for such services as he may render to such Company or Institution in his capacity of medical practitioner.”*





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